

K-254

Beck's Landing or High Park
Broad Neck
c. 1830-1850

Horatio Beck purchased parts of Scotts Lott, High Park and Mulberry Plains around 1830. He was assessed for 483 acres in the 1852 tax assessment which included a "Frame House + other Buildings in good repair." He also owned eleven slaves and considerable livestock. Mr. Beck is listed owner on the 1860 Martinet Map, but by 1877, it had passed into the ownership of Mrs. M. M. Beck. On the latter map it is referred to as Beck's Landing.

At least two parts of the three-part house were standing when Horatio purchased the farm, the one and a half story, three-bay kitchen wing and the three-bay two and a half story center section. Parts of the foundation of the third section appear earlier, but whatever might have been there was removed when Mr. Beck built that section. A supporting factor to this theory is the unique plan of the middle section, with a passage across the back connecting the kitchen to that other structure and then to Mr. Beck's wing.

Whomever Mr. Beck employed to undertake the construction of his house was a designer and builder of merit. Its basic form is common to Kent County, a five-bay, two and a half story, center-hall plan house, but the details are outstanding. It has a well-proportioned Greek Revival porch, similar in design to the Ringgold House, Chestertown; windows with consoles under the sills and dormers with pilasters and applied pressed tin wreaths in the tympanums, similar to those at Stepney across the road.

The interior is trimmed with architraves around each opening and the ceilings boast plaster cornices and medallions. Original graining on the doors has been restored and the whole house brought up to code as a result of the 1980's restoration which also replaced the old kitchen wing.

North of the house some 18th century gravestones with the names of various members of the Dunn family have been found. Through the 1930's, Becks Landing was a regular stop for ships carrying produce to the Baltimore markets. The farm is still owned by the descendants of Horatio Beck.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic High Parkand/or common High Park

2. Location

street & number East side Langford Road (Broad Neck Road), Rt. 446, ☐ not for publication
3.75 miles south of Rt. 20, west of Chestertowncity, town Chestertown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 1ststate Maryland 21620 county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Elizabeth B. Welton, Trusteestreet & number 1085 S. Bayshore Rd. telephone no.: 778-2921city, town Virginia Beach state and zip code Virginia 23451

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber WHG 4street & number folio 106city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. K-254

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

High Park consists of three gable-roofed frame sections arranged in telescope fashion. To the north is a 1½ story, 3-bay wide early section, perhaps dating from the eighteenth century, altered on the first story but intact on the second. The narrow, 3-bay wide 2½ story center section is Federal in style, but perhaps as late as 1820. A 5-bay wide Greek Revival main section with a central hall plan and large, well-proportioned rooms stands to the south.

8. Significance

Survey No.K-254

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local.

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house at High Park is significant because it combines three distinct, successive building styles and illustrates important changes in Kent County vernacular architecture from the eighteenth century to perhaps about 1870. Begun in the eighteenth century on a site affording good water transportation with the 1½ story section, the house was enlarged with a modest Federal style 2½ story addition which had a small rear stair hall ; and one room on each floor. An evidently prosperous mid-nineteenth century owner then built a large main section with a wealth of Greek Revival- style details, most of which are intact. Especially notable are the bold, complex plaster cornices and the elaborate door and interior window trim with pilasters, head frieze and hoods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-254

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Surveyor

organization County Commissioners of Kent County
Historical Society of Kent County

date June 18, 1981

street & number The Court House

778-4600

Church Alley

telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown,

state Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

BUILDING FORM AND MATERIAL

1. Size
Main Section: 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ stories, 5 bays wide, 2 bays deep
Wing A: lower 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories, narrow 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep
Wing B: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep
2. Plan type
Central Hall: (9'8" wide) with room on each side; two side wings to the north in telescope fashion.
Wing A: has one room per floor and a rear stair hall, which also serves as a passage from wing B to the main section
Wing B: now one room (kitchen) on first floor; plan probably originally hall and parlor; 3 small rooms on 2nd story, last used for domestic and/or farm help.
3. Roof Type: main section- gable Wings- gable
4. Chimney(s)- Location: 1&2- originally center both gable ends, within walls, of main section
3) north gable end of Wing A; 4) center north gable end of Wing B, with exterior fire-back the height of first story. The main section has recently had a new chimney built on the outside of the south gable end in the center, to present this shape (plan elevation).

Materials: brick

Decorative Elements: slightly corbelled caps; Wing B- band

Main section cellar has one chimney base arch, one working fireplace in chimney base.

5. Material/Walls
Main Section: Frame. Type- German shiplap , with 4" exposure; recessed-panel pilasters at corners with plain wood base on set-out brick corners, composite capitals.

Wing A: frame. German shiplap, with 6" exposure (facade); lapped plain weatherboard in rear; single cornerboards throughout; may have been entirely horizontal lapped weatherboard originally.

Wing B: Frame. Horizontal Lapped weatherboard with ca. 5- $\frac{1}{2}$ " exposure (may have been replaced/added at time of building of Wing A since courses align on approach facade, or Wing A's could have been applied to conform to Wing B.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Notable changes to building; Wing B- considerably altered (remodeled on the 1st story; 2nd floor now unused and intact. Wing A- new joists, floors, walls (insulation installed), but doors, trim and stair intact. Main section - fireplaces somewhat altered; some grained doors have been painted. One plaster cornice replaced with wood cornice.

6. Material/Roofs

Wood shingles throughout.

7. Material/Foundation

Main Section: brick (with cellar); Wing A: brick (crawl space); wing B: brick (crawl space).

8. Age

Main Section: mid-19th century;

Wing A: 1800-1830, probably late within this period;

Wing B: probably 18th century; the crawl space could not be viewed. The form and the height of the fireback indicate an early date.

9. Style

Vernacular Greek Revival main section with Federal mid-section remodeled on approach side at a later date to conform to main section style; 18th century portion-1½ story vernacular farm house.

BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1.

Main Entry: location/description - center bay of approach facade; 8-light transom with those at sides ½ size; architrave has plain 6-¾" pilasters with inside ¾" corner bead; the frieze above the transom is plain and pedimented. The transom bar is a medium cyma recta with fillets over a 4-½" fillet, chamfered at sidelights. There are 3-light sidelights over simple panels with large Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings. Pilasters between sidelights and doors are recessed panel with composite bases and capitals and head shape as at main section corners; pilasters have one side chamfered. Custom-made double half-screen doors on outside. Double main doors with clipped rounded corners; large Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings.

Secondary Entries: location/description - 1) appears Federal; center bay of Wing A's approach facade, into present dining room; probably main entry when Wing A built; 4-light transom; trim plain with inside corner bead and with head a modified pediment; door-6 panels above a wide lock rail and 2 medium vertical panels below with small reeded-type panel molding. 2) rear of main section's central hall, with double doors as at main entry; architrave and trim duplicates that of main entry, but without the transom. 3) Rear of Wing A- 3 light transom; same door as #1; trim as at Tully's Fancy (1/4" fillet outside, bead/bevel, 2 reeds, 2" fillet and inside bead). Door trim integrates with adjacent window trim. Entry is from exterior into rear stair hall of Wing A. 4) Rear, Wing B,- slightly off center; modern tall 2-panel door with 6 lights above; trim is 1" fillet and 1/4" inside bead (replacement); entry to kitchen. 5) End gable wall, NW corner of Wing B- plain 1½" fillet; entry to kitchen.

2. Windows

Main Section: type--double-hung. Lights--large 6/6, with thin muntins. Details--wood sills with apron and at ends, flat S-curve apron brackets, unmolded heads on top of siding are modified pediments. Aluminum storm windows and shutters obscure view of trim, but jamb pilaster trim appears wide (ca. 7") with inside corner bead. The rear

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

windows of the first story of the main section have jib doors, with recessed panels and large Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings. Shutters are fixed louver type. Single attic window shutters have been removed.

Wings: type--double hung; casements (attic). Lights--smaller 6/6; in attic north gable of wing A-3/3; Wing B--6-light attic casements (2). Shutters-movable louvers on first story, fixed louvers on second.

3. Dormers

Main Section: three large dormers per roof slope, evenly spaced, with 6/6 double-hung sash; gable roofs; plain pilasters with simple base and capital; no overhang at eaves or gable end; small returns (about 8"); cheeks of unpainted weatherboard, perhaps cedar or cypress; leaf-like wreath in center of tympanum (laurel wreath?).

Wing A: one dormer in center of each roof slope with 6/6 double-hung sash; painted weatherboard cheeks, plain pilasters with corner boards and terminating at roof returns, which are small.

Wing B: two dormers in front slope, one over the north bay window, the other slightly to the left of the south bay; one dormer at present in rear slope; another may have been removed when a wide 2-slope (dormer) roof section was added joining Wing A and Wing B; this has a compound shed roof, with the northermost beginning at the ridge (done to construct a modern bathroom). Though similarly gable-roofed with 5-6" overhangs on three sides, soffit following the rafter line, and no returns, the front two have plain pilasters while those on the rear are flared. Sash is double-hung 6/6; cheeks are weatherboard.

4. Roof Details

Main Section: Box cornice (10-12" overhang) with plain crown molding. Small but chunky S-shaped modillions about 12" O.C. with bevel surround also used as bed molding. Deep frieze (about 20") divided into two parts by two or three part rounded molding at center. Roof flared slightly at eaves. Gable ends-3 narrow verge boards, overlapping giving a corbelled effect.

Wings: B - double small overlapping verge boards; eaves-plain double fascia boards and soffit under rafters; wing's long-wall plates are visible from exterior under eaves, appear to be about 7". Wing A - Box Cornice with composite crown (top is a bevel) and bevel bed moldings; frieze is about 10", but not corner to corner, with composite molding 1/3 of distance above lower edge.

5. Porches:

1) At main entry: probably original except for floor and steps; one bay wide, one bay deep (about 12' side x 8' deep) and set on brick piers. Greek Revival in style with 2 columns at each front corner and one pilaster (engaged column) each side at house wall. Bases are simple. Roof is low-hip covered with standing-seam metal. The lower frieze is 3 part corbelled wood with cove and fillet above, with plain frieze above that. Same type of modillion blocks (chunky S-shape) though with applied bevel square on vertical face. Cyra recta and other crown molding. Bevel used as bed molding and modillion block backband. Plain wooden steps, no rail. Replacement tongue-and-groove pine flooring. Ceiling-seven recessed panels, with long dimensions running front to back.

2) Rear of main section- shed -roofed, with sides all sliding glass doors (a total replacement of earlier large porch, to which access could be gained by jib doors). New brick piers. New tongue-and-groove floor. 5 bays wide and 1 deep, with simple

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

round columns with no base making the bays outside the framing between door sets. Wooden steps with simple rail.

3) Rear of Wing A - 2 story (with second story open), 1 bay wide by 1 bay deep. Wood steps and tongue and groove pine floor. Plain square balusters and rounded - edge rail with cove and bead at lower edge. Balustrade only-2nd story.

4) At rear kitchen entry (Wing B)- shed-roofed porch

6. Color: current - yellow with white trim and deep red shutters
Historic - ?

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type: central hall main section, 1 large room deep each side, with two wings beyond north gable.
2. Major stair: in central hall; dog leg to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ story; pine treads, open string with two turned balusters per tread; complex sawn step brackets with same general pattern continued around face at landing level; window at landing between 1st and 2nd stories dormer lights stair high above the landing between 2nd and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story; large turned newel with rail continuous to end of stair. Open under-stair on 1st story.
Other Stairs: 1) Wing A- in rear hall, beginning along rear wall; narrow dog-leg stair with no center well; 2 plain rectangular balusters per tread, narrow side out; small turned newel and intermediates; almost round rail. A Federal period stair.
2) Wing B - corner stair with door.
3. Major mantels: Wing A (dining room)-- wide rectangular opening (now closed); broken shelf with composite molded edge, including fine horizontal reeding; recessed panel pilasters with applied single piece of vertical molding and composite capitals and bases, the capitals' moldings continuous across the face; frieze is divided into thirds horizontally, with center panel plain and raised. A late federal mantel.
Main Section: has fireplaces in both bedrooms on 2nd floor, with rectangular openings; they have been rebuilt, mantels stored in cellar.
Bedroom over dining room in Wing A: closed fireplace with same trim as doors and windows of room.
Main Section: south and north parlors - rebuilt brick work, with segmental arch of splayed stretchers. Frieze shape follows fireplace arch. Projecting pilasters. Similar diamond shape used horizontally in center of frieze. Pair of brackets each end of mantel shelf facing room, and pair flush against frieze, sideways. Brick hearth flush with floor.
4. Major trim
Windows/Doors: Jib doors from 1st story main section to replacement rear porch. Wing A - first story: 4" wide split-face trim with inside $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead and composite backband. See sketch. Appears Federal. Main section except for 1st story-wide (7- $\frac{1}{2}$ ") and grained; inside $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead, 3- $\frac{5}{8}$ " fillet, 3" ogee and round, with 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " fillet backband. Wing A, 2nd story-outside 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " fillet flush with plaster and, to the inside, $\frac{1}{4}$ " fillet and $\frac{1}{2}$ " bead. Main section 1st story interior door and window trim - total width of pilasters is 9- $\frac{1}{2}$ " plus an inside recessed fillet and bead. Base for pilasters is same as baseboard, but protrudes; composite capitals. Recessed panel pilasters in same style as elsewhere. At head, above pilaster capitals, is broad frieze (8-9") topped by large ogee and bevel. Above this is a hood which protrudes to the sides and into the room about five inches.
Baseboards: Dining room, Wing A - split face (5- $\frac{1}{2}$ " base and 1" cap). Main section 1st story-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " split face fillets with Greek ogee and bevel above. Total height is 10- $\frac{1}{4}$ "; grained.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Cornices - none in Wing A; Main Section - none above 1st story; 1st story hall and south parlor have original complex plaster cornices. In the north parlor a reproduction executed in wood has replaced the original plaster cornice. Original consists of deep (6") frieze with incised horizontal line 1" from lower edge, with large cyma reversa above. A second cornice section is above, giving a hood effect; it protrudes into the room about 6-8" and is of composite molded shapes.

Chair Rails: none in Wing A, where one might have been expected.

5. Major Doors

Wing A: 1st story-6 raised panels above deep lock rail, 2 panels below, with small composite panel moldings (similar to Tully's Fancy). Main Section: doors grained to resemble oak, 4 raised panels with Greek ogee and bevel applied panel moldings

Wing A: 2nd story - plain recessed 4-panel. Wing A, 2-½ story--original beaded board (medium random) and batten doors with interesting hardware, metal knobs (small and flat both sides) to operate lift latch.

6. Floors - Main Section: 2nd- medium random pine.

7. Walls/Ceiling Finishes

Paint and paper over sheetrock and plaster. Hall, 1st- roccoco plaster ceiling medallions applied in center (rectangular). Main Section parlors - plaster ceiling medallions in center, round(ca. 24"-30"). There is similar but larger plaster work at Brampton (K-465)

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major Outbuildings

Farm outbuildings that appear to be late 19th-early 20th century are located to the north of the house. A large meathouse is located behind the kitchen (to the east), late 19th-early 20th Century? It is typical bay construction with small corner posts and one intermediate each side, diagonal bracing. Penny-end door strap hinges appear cast.

2. Site Description

The house faces west, onto a large lawn rimmed by a semi-circle of trees with a similarly semi-circular white farm fence beyond. To a east a treed lawn slopes down to Langford Creek's East Fork. To the north beyond the side drive and parking area are numerous farm outbuildings.

3. Viewsto/From Site

To the southeast across Langford Creek (East Fork) the Walnut Point area of Quaker Neck can be seen. To the northeast, across the cove above which the house is sited, the promontory which is Beck's Landing can be seen. On both sides of the long farm lane from the public road (Broad Neck Road) are cultivated fields.

USE OF BUILDING

1. Current - residence/farmhouse

2. Historic - residence/farmhouse

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

The property has been owned by the Beck family for many years. Until about 1940 Beck's Landing was used as a shipping point for agricultural products from this

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION (continued)

and neighboring farms. Such use is said to have been continuous from the 18th century. Until recently a lane led directly to the landing from Broad Neck Road.

High Park Farm is a telescopic house, most of which appears to date from the nineteenth century. The main section is five bays long and two bays deep with center door with Doric portico. The entire structure is built of frame covered with clapboard. All sash is 6/6 with the exception of the middle wing and all windows have louvered shutters. Beneath the windows of the main section are bracket-like shaped blocks and at the corners are panelled pilasters. There is a modillion cornice on both sides of the main portion and the three dormers on the west have wreathes applied above the sash. A one story porch extends the length of two sections on the east side. On the east side the center window is located at stair landing level, just above the roof of the porch. The middle portion is two bays long and two stories tall and has 9/6 sash on first story, east facade. Finally, the kitchen portion is one-and-one-half stories, three bays long, with two dormers on each side and a porch on the east.

The house is located in a grove of large trees, on a small hill and looks east over the east branch of Langford Creek.

~~Mrs. Potts~~

(Beckhard) 1502545304
K-254

Md.

Kent

Chestertown -

Langford

Alt 446 - 1 mile South of Langford
east side of rd.

High Park Farm -

early 19th Century
Colonial

orig. use - dwelling

owner - Mrs. Scott Beck

pres. use - Tenant ^{house} (Mr. & Mrs. Henry Potts)

walls - frame

no. of stories 2 1/2

public ☒ no ☐

High Park Farm is a telescopic house, most of which appears to date from the 19th Century. The main section is 5 bays long and 2 bays deep with center door with Doric portico. The entire structure is built of frame covered with clapboard. All sash is 6/6 with the exception of the middle wing and all windows have louvered shutters. Beneath the windows of the main section are bracket-like shaped blocks and at the corners are painted pilasters. There is a medallion cornice on both sides of the main portion and the 3 dormers on the west have wreaths ~~applied~~ above the sash. A one story porch extends the length of the 2 sections on the east side. On the east side the center window is located at stair landing level, just above the roof of the porch. The ~~middle~~ ^{middle} portion is 2 bays long and 2 stories tall and has 9/6 sash on 1st story east facade. Finally, the kitchen portion is 1 1/2 stories, 3 bays long, with 2 dormers on each side and a porch on the east.

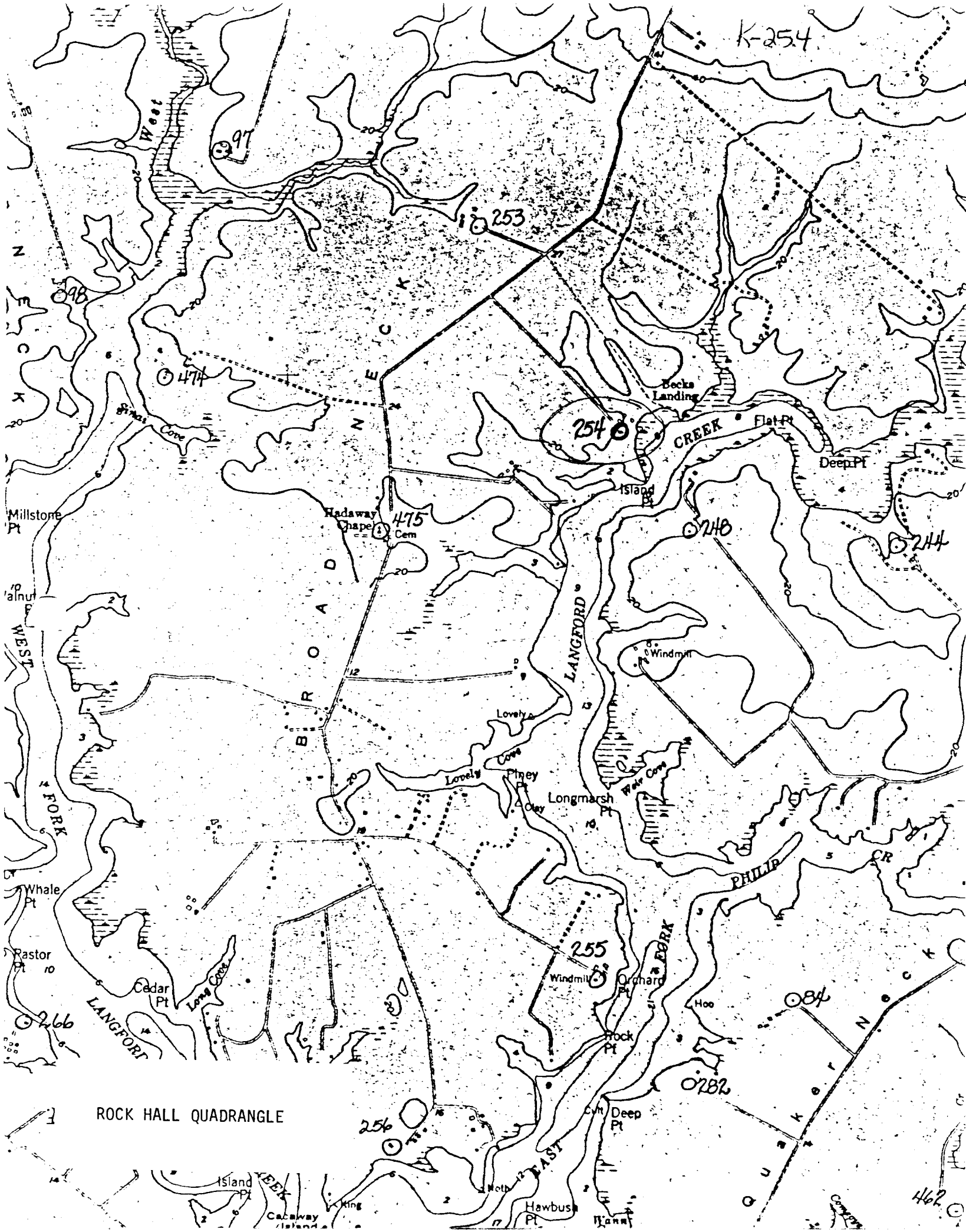
The house is located on a small hill in a grove of large trees and looks east over the east branch of Langford Creek.

endg. no

ext. good

Michael Bourne
~~1003~~

Oct 22, 1968





View to Southeast

HIGH PARK (K-254)

Broad Neck, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. Q. Fallaw, June 1981